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NPDA-CT Chapter  
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March 3, 2011  
Committee on Aging  
Testimony Regarding Committee Bill No.3  
"An Act Concerning Criminal Background Checks For Employees of homemaker-Companion Agencies  
and Home Health Agencies"

Dear Senator Prague and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon Massafra and I am franchise owner and president of Home Instead Senior Care #307 in Trumbull and Sandy Hook, Connecticut. My non-medical home care agency is an employment-based agency providing homemaker, companion and personal care services to seniors. I also serve as Vice-president of the National Private Duty Association, Connecticut Chapter (NPDA-CT), a not-for-profit trade organization concerned about standards of care and quality of service for the Connecticut homecare industry.

I wish to testify in connection with Committee Bill No. 3. I strongly support the comprehensive background check portion of the Bill. It is paramount that all homemaker-companion agencies are on the "same playing field" when they conduct comprehensive background checks on prospective employees. There should be no room for doubt whether or not each and every employee at each and every homemaker-companion agency registered with the Department of Consumer Protection has successfully completed the comprehensive background check as stated in Bill No. 3.

On the other hand, I wish to oppose the term "registrant" defined in Section 8 of Bill No. 3 based upon the simple, clear notion that homemakers, companions and personal care assistants are not independent contractors. This Bill as stated may mistakenly legitimize, aid, or abet misclassification.

For the reasons mentioned above, on behalf of the NPDA-CT Chapter I respectfully request this Committee to amend Bill No. 3 and remove reference to "registrant" as it appears in the current <sup>statute</sup> ~~proposal~~.

Sincerely,

Sharon Massafra, Vice President  
NPDA CT Chapter